

Nevada Department of Agriculture
Organic Advisory Council Meeting
5 January 2006
Reno, Nevada

Council Members Present:

Marcia Litsinger
Dave Hall (by phone)
Virginia Johnson

Council Members Absent:

Carl Newberry
Bruce Quinlan

Department Personnel

Gary Cross
Peggy McKie

The meeting was called to order by Gary Cross at 1:30 p.m. Items on the agenda were taken out of order in the following sequence:

Minutes:

The minutes were read with a motion made by Virginia Johnson to change Bruce Quinlan's designation to the more correct "organic industry representative, retail". Discussion followed about the vacant council position represents "producer", "handler", or "organic industry representative". It was determined that the vacant position is actually for an organic producer or handler, and that Quinlan's seat is designated as "organic industry representative, retail". The motion to correct the minutes to read: "Bruce Quinlan (organic industry representative, retail)" was seconded and passed.

Election of Officers:

Cross asked members if they wanted to elect officers now or wait until later when the vacant position is filled. Those present agreed to move forward with the elections.

Johnson was nominated and elected to chair.

Litsinger was nominated and elected to vice chair.

USDA Grant:

Cross described a grant that NDOA is seeking for quality assurance that will be applied to all Nevada agriculture products. Council members questioned if this would be a good fit for organic producers. Discussion followed about other avenues through which to obtain funding for the promotion of organic agriculture in Nevada. Johnson asked if funds could be made available to the Council through the money granted by the legislature for Farmer's Market/Direct Marketing. McKie stated that the subgrants have not yet been awarded by the Nevada Certified Farmers Market Association or the Nevada Grown Program and suggested that the Council submit proposals to both groups, for the inclusion of organic producers in the promotional information targeting farmers' markets, and greater visibility for organic farmers on the Nevada Grown website. A motion was made to submit grant proposals to each group. The motion seconded and passed. Johnson and Litsinger agreed to work on and submit the grant proposals on behalf of the Council.

Board Comments:

None

Public Comment:

Steve Litsinger asked what could be done to encourage new organic farmers. McKie suggested that the Council request ATTRA present a series of workshops in Nevada focused on organic transition. No action was taken on this item.

No further business.

Meeting adjourned 2:15 p.m.

Submitted: P. McKie 1/5/2006